



THE COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD  
WASHINGTON

*The Commandant of the United States Coast Guard  
takes pleasure in commending*

*RALPH LYONS ORMSBY  
CHIEF BOATSWAIN'S MATE  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD*

*for services as set forth in the following*

*CITATION:*

*"For meritorious performance of duty on 18 and 19 February 1952, while serving as officer-in-charge of Coast Guard Motor Lifeboat No. CG-36524, proceeding to the assistance of the SS FORT MERCER and the SS PENDLETON, which had broken in two in the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Despite extremely high seas, poor visibility, intermittent snow squalls and northwest winds between forty and fifty miles per hour, ORMSBY, by his outstanding seamanship, brought the lifeboat through hazardous and shallow waters in an effort to rescue survivors from the broken tanker PENDLETON. His constant and determined efforts, during a twenty-four hour period under the most adverse conditions, materially contributed to the success of this extensive rescue operation. ORMSBY's initiative, courage, stamina, and unwavering devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard."*

*ORMSBY is hereby authorized to wear the Coast Guard Commendation Ribbon.*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Merlin O'Neill".

MERLIN O'NEILL  
Vice Admiral, USCG  
Commandant